

**THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

**Extension to Pendomen,  
Tomen Cefn Glaniwrch,  
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Powys**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**CPAT Report No 577**

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**Extension to Pendomen,  
Tomen Cefn Glaniwrch,  
Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Powys**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

**R Hankinson**  
October 2003

Report for Mr & Mrs B Davies

**The Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust**

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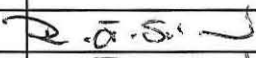
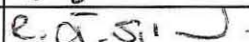
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## CPAT Report Record

### Report and status

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 In March 2003 the Contracts Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust (CPAT) was invited by Mr & Mrs B Davies of Pendomen, Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Powys, to submit a specification and quotation for undertaking an archaeological watching brief during groundworks related to the construction of an extension at Pendomen. The watching brief was a condition of a grant of scheduled monument consent required by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments (Cadw ref: A-CAM1/2/2081/03).
- 1.2 The CPAT quotation was accepted by Mr & Mrs Davies on 5 September 2003. The watching brief was carried out on 24 September 2003, with this report being compiled in the following month.

## **2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

- 2.1 Pendomen is situated approximately 2km to the east-south-east of the village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, at NGR SJ 14892538, in the northern part of Powys (Fig. 1). The house lies immediately to the north-east of the medieval castle mound (motte) known as Tomen Cefn Glaniwrch (Fig. 2), which is a scheduled ancient monument (De123 (POW)).
- 2.2 Pendomen lies on a local summit which overlooks to the south the confluence of Afon Iwrch with Afon Tanat. The valley floor at this point lies at approximately 120m OD, with Pendomen, at 190m OD, forming the southern outlier of a rising shelf of ground that is bounded on its east and north sides by more steeply sloping ground exceeding 300m OD in elevation.
- 2.3 The solid geology of the area consists of faulted mudstones and siltstones belonging to the Caradoc group of rocks of Ordovician age (1994 British Geological Survey map). The soils of the immediate area are derived from the underlying rocks and consist of fine silty and clayey soils belonging to the Cegin Association (1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map).

## **3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The watching brief was required by Cadw as the house lies immediately adjacent to the surviving earthwork motte, and the scheduled area extends beyond the visible earthworks to include ground which is thought to contain an associated bailey (domestic enclosure), although no certain indications of the location of that bailey have yet been identified.
- 3.2 Motte and bailey castles are generally a feature of early Norman occupation and were designed to provide strongholds from which areas of land could be controlled. Tomen Cefn Glaniwrch conforms to this model, with its dominant siting in the upper Tanat valley. A similar earthwork castle above Glantanat Isaf, only 1.5km distant but on the opposite side of the river, provides further evidence of the nature of local landholdings in the period following the Norman conquest.
- 3.3 The house known as Pendomen appears to belong to the post-medieval period, perhaps having its origin in the 18th century, although to the best of our knowledge no detailed examination of the house has been carried out. From discussions with the owners, it is known that during the mid-20th century the house formed part of a small farmstead.

## **4 WATCHING BRIEF (Fig. 3)**

- 4.1 The watching brief occupied a single day, during which all of the new groundworks needed for the extension were carried out (Fig. 3). With the exception of two small, hand-excavated areas, the trenches and soakaways were excavated by machine. Close archaeological observation of the work was maintained throughout. Note that in the following descriptions single digit



numbers, sometimes in brackets refer to recorded archaeological contexts (layers and features) which are depicted in the accompanying plans.

- 4.2 The works comprised the excavation of the main foundation trench for the extension which was 0.6m wide and 1.0m deep, with smaller, 0.3m-wide, trenches leading from the foundation trench to two soakaway pits, each approximately 2.2m<sup>2</sup> in extent. A third trench, also 0.3m wide, was excavated to provide a connection to an existing pipe which in turn led to the septic tank.
- 4.3 The excavations revealed few sub-surface features. In the north-north-west part of the foundation trench (Section A-B; Fig 4), a small gully (4) was recorded, running approximately north/south and filled with grey clay (5). The gully formed the eastern boundary of a layer of small stones set in grey clay (3) and had been sealed by a layer of grey-brown clay silt containing flecks of mortar (2), 0.1m thick, itself lying beneath a layer of modern concrete and brick rubble (1), 0.22m thick. Layer 3 was 0.05m in thickness and contained material (e.g brick) which confirmed its post-medieval origin. The underlying natural subsoil (6) consisted of orange and grey flecked stony clay.
- 4.4 The bases of two in-situ oak posts were encountered in the east-north-east part of the main foundation trench (see Fig.3). Discussions with the owner confirmed that these represented part of an old post-built ('dutch') barn which had previously been on the site. The location of the posts gave a width of approximately 5.5m for the former barn.
- 4.5 The south-south-east part of the foundation trench revealed a layer of stones set in grey clay (8), 0.2m thick, which may represent an old yard deposit and was evidently of post-medieval date on the basis of the included finds. The layer was sealed by dark grey-brown clay silt (8), 0.1m in thickness.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS**

- 5.1 All of the groundworks for the extension to the existing house were examined during the watching brief and were recorded where appropriate.
- 5.2 The watching brief did not reveal any features which could be related to the adjoining motte. This may suggest either that any evidence relating to the presumed bailey was removed when Pendomen house was built, or that the bailey was not located in this area.
- 5.3 The features which were recorded all relate to the house at Pendomen or its use as an agricultural holding and belong to the post-medieval period. A small gully (4) seems to define the eastern edge of a stone surface which is probably associated with the house. The remaining features represent the sub-surface remains of a former post-built barn and a yard surface located on its south side.

## **6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 6.1 The writer would like to thank Mr & Mrs B Davies for facilitating the excavation.

## **7 REFERENCES**

### **7.1 *Cartographic sources***

1983 Soil Survey of England and Wales map (Sheet 2 - Wales) and Legend (1:250,000 scale)

1994 British Geological Survey map of Wales (Solid edition at 1:250,000 scale)

### **7.2 *Aerial photographic sources***

CPAT 86-MB-457, taken 2/3/1986

CPAT 90-MB-0401, taken 4/4/1990

**APPENDIX 1**  
**TOMEN CEFN GLANIWRCH, LLANRHAEDR-YM-MOCHNANT, POWYS**  
**SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**  
**BY THE CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST**

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Proposals to demolish an agricultural building and erect a new extension may affect archaeological remains associated the medieval motte. The site in question has been designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
- 1.2 Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) to undertake the proposed works granted by Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments, on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales, included the following conditions: the applicant shall appoint a professional archaeologist, to be approved in writing by Cadw, to undertake a watching brief during excavation of the new foundations, drains and soakaways; the approved archaeologist shall make a drawn and photographic record of any features of archaeological interest; that should any features of archaeological significance be uncovered during the excavations, the archaeologist shall be empowered to stop work for up to one day to allow for appropriate recording; within three month of completion a copy of the report shall be submitted to Cadw, the Regional Sites and Monuments Record and the National Monuments Record.

## **2 Objectives**

- 2.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief are:
  - 2.1.1 to monitor the excavation of new foundations, drains and soakaways;
  - 2.1.2 to record the nature, condition, significance and, where possible, the chronology of any archaeological deposits and/or features revealed within the area of the proposed works in so far as these aims are possible;
  - 2.1.3 to prepare a report outlining the results of the watching brief, even they are negative.

## **3 Methods**

- 3.1 The watching brief will be carried out according to the conditions contained within the SMC and will involve the monitoring of excavations for the new foundations, drains and soakaways.
- 3.2 A photographic record will be maintained in 35mm black and white and colour slide with a photographic scale visible in each view.
- 3.3 Should any significant archaeological deposits be revealed sufficient opportunity must be allowed for adequate recording and excavation as appropriate. All contexts will be recorded on standard individual context forms and drawn in section and/or plan as appropriate.
- 3.4 Following the on-site work an illustrated and bound report will be prepared. This will be in A4 format and contain conventional sections on: Site location, Topography and Geology; Historic Background; Catalogue of sites identified with notes on their condition and significance, Conclusions and Recommendations and References, together with appropriate appendices on archives and finds.
- 3.5 The site archive will be prepared to specifications laid out in Appendix 3 in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991).



#### **4 Resources and Programming**

- 4.1 The watching brief will be undertaken by a skilled and experienced archaeologist. Overall supervision will be by Mr R J Silvester, a senior member of CPAT's staff who is also a member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 4.2 All report preparation will be completed by or with the assistance of the same field archaeologist who conducted the watching brief. Copies of the report will be provided to the following: the client; Cadw; Welsh Historic Monuments; the Regional Sites and Monuments Record, CPAT, Welshpool; the National Monuments Record, Aberystwyth.
- 4.3 The duration of the watching brief will be entirely dependant on the client's/contractor's programme of work and that the subsequent report will be prepared immediately thereafter. The date of commencement, at the time of writing, has yet to be agreed with the client, who will be responsible for informing Cadw of the timetable for the works.
- 4.4 Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.
- 4.5 CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance.

N.W.Jones  
7th March 2003



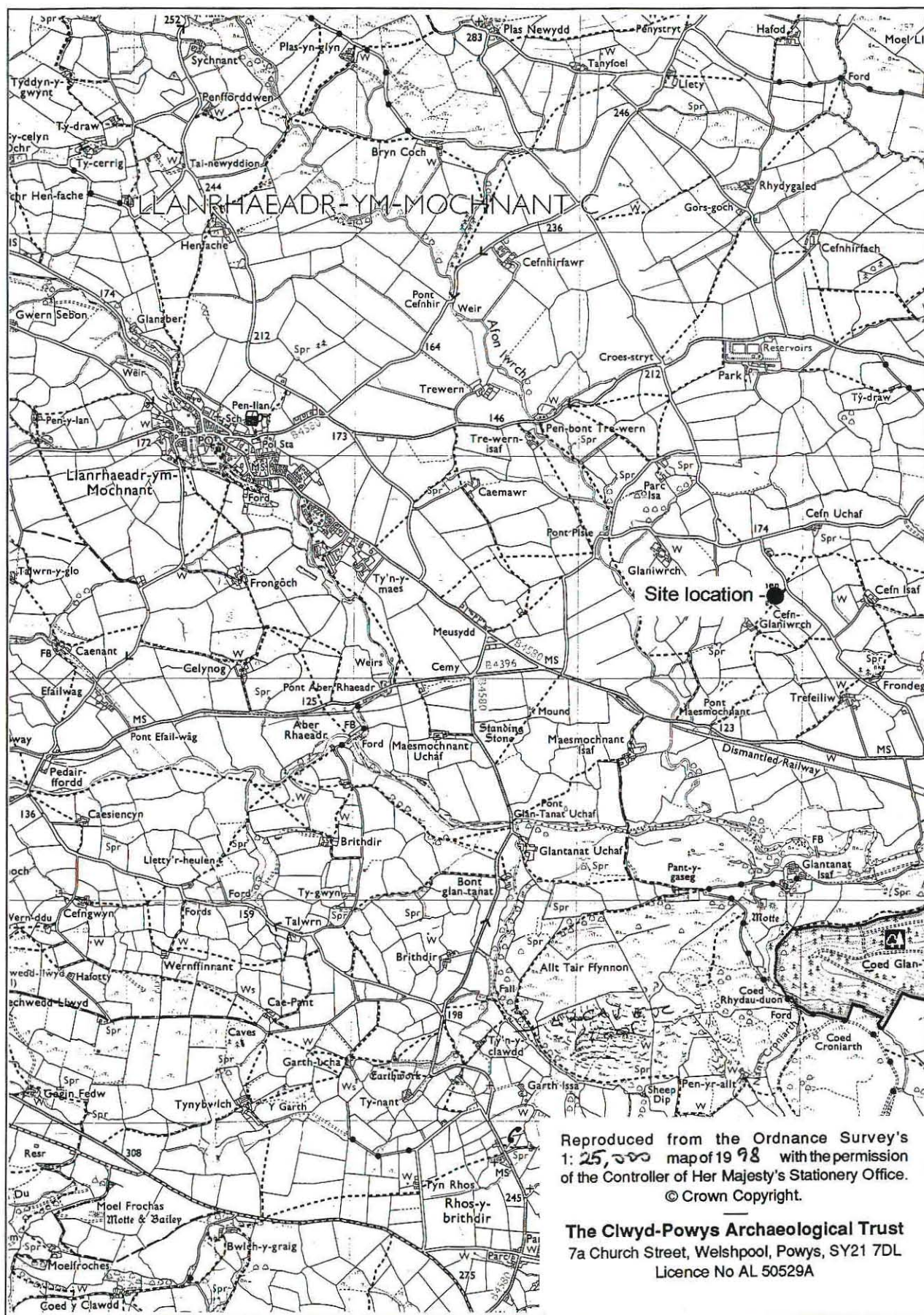


Fig. 1 Site location

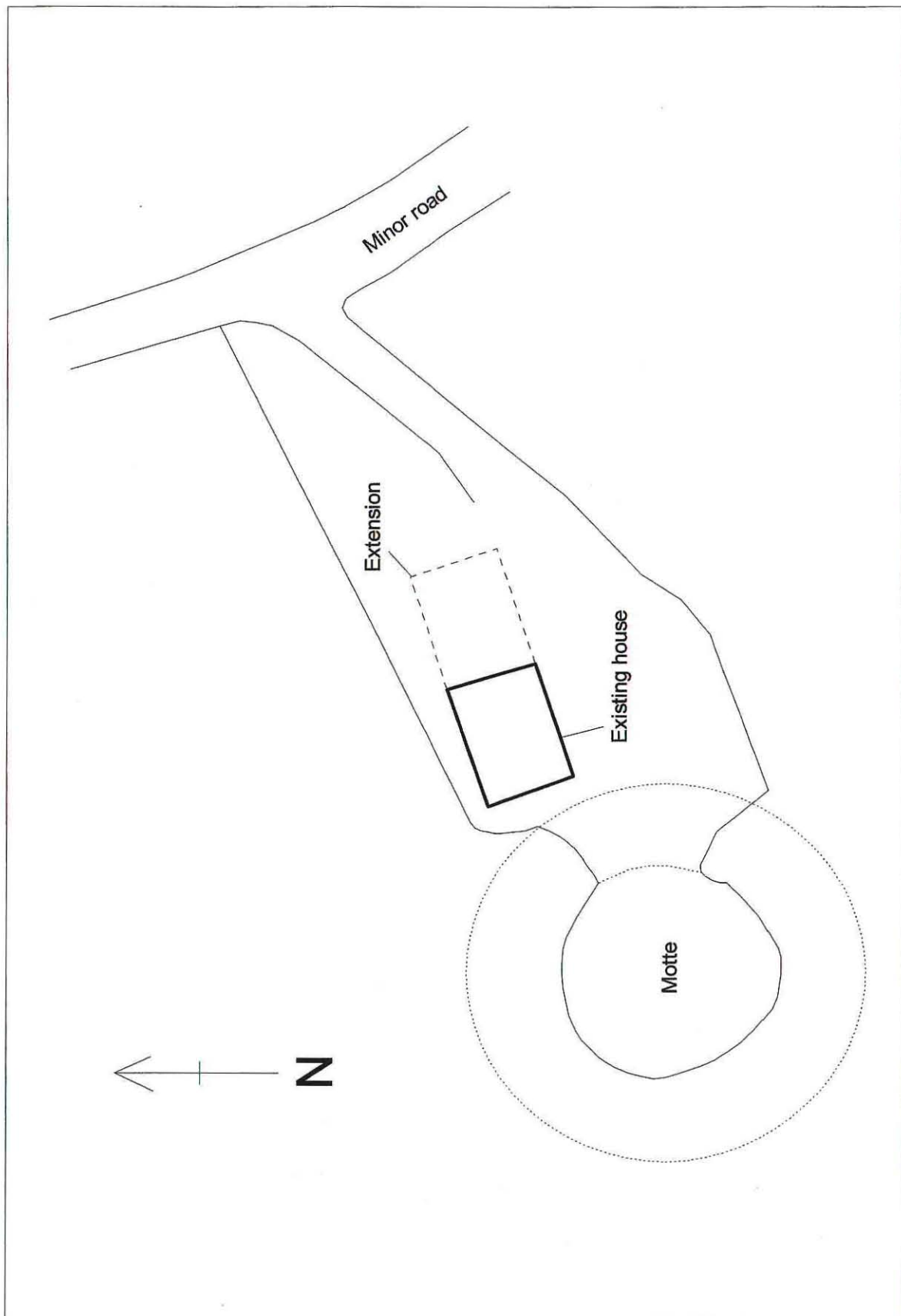


Fig. 2 Layout of existing structures and extension (Scale 1:500)



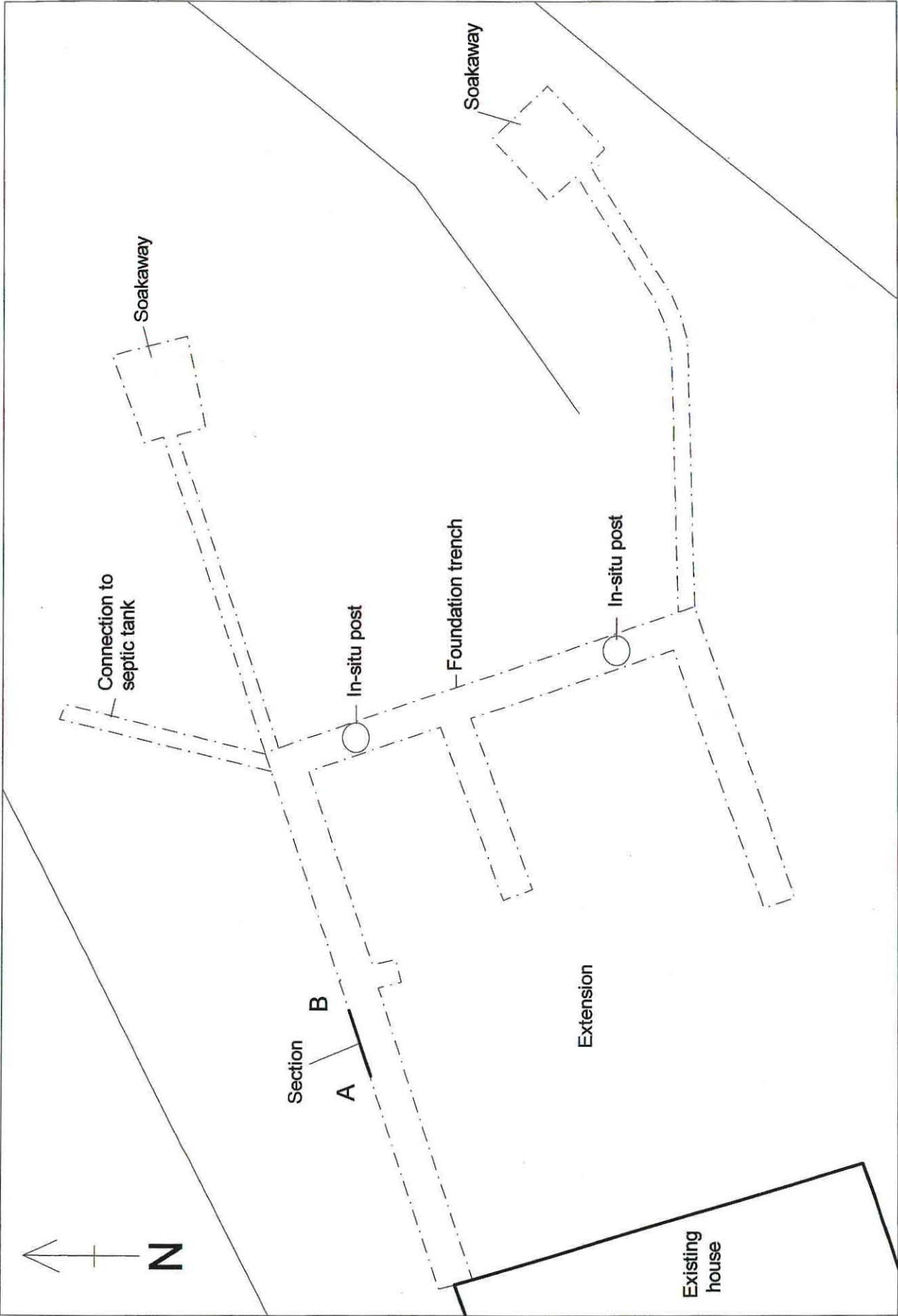


Fig. 3 Excavations carried out during watching brief (Scale 1:100)



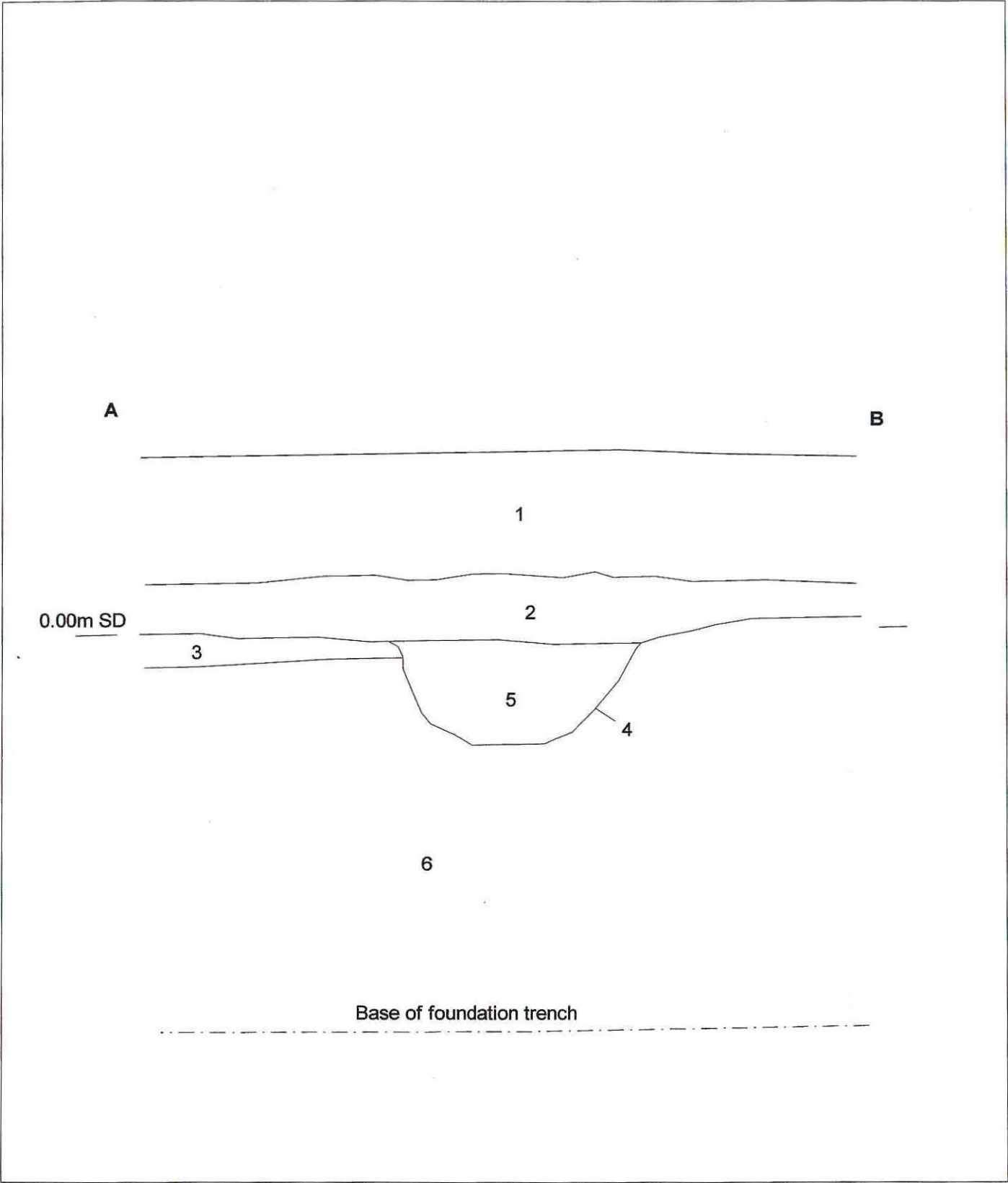


Fig. 4 Section A-B Scale 1:10